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SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 1908.

VIRGINIA'S PLATFORM PURE DEMOCRACY.

The sessions of the Democratic convention in Roanoke last week demonstrated in a remarkable degree the red-blooded virility of the Democratic party of Virginia. No convention ever adjourned with every delegate absolutely satisfied with the result of its deliberations. The need of a convention gave assurance beforehand that universal satisfaction could not be achieved. The work of a convention of a political party, like the enactment of a legislative body, is invariably a compromise, and must be so as long as men are men, and minds differ.

The convention demonstrated, however, during every hour of its existence, that years of ascendancy had not robbed the Virginia Democracy of its virility and fighting instincts. Inaction begotten of unopposed power has been the death of political parties. The hope of that party which has no real opposition at the polls is unfettered liberty of thought and expression among its members. Virginia Democrats know how for years peculiar conditions existing in Virginia precluded independent thought along political lines and forced a single issue upon the party.

Those times are in the past. The purging of the electorate opened up the whole field of political thought to the excursions of inquiring minds among Virginia voters. The party whose principles cannot stand the test of reason and the fair inquiry of the investigator deserves to yield to another. It cheers the soul of a Democrat of conviction to see his party so strong, militant and confident after its principles have been made the subject of investigation and the object of attack.

A contest within party ranks bears good fruit. It clears the atmosphere. It braces the nerves for the shock of battle. As Senator Daniel would say, it dresses and stiffens the line. For years the Democratic party of Virginia was forced to mark time. But Virginia Democrats are now catching step. The declarations of the Roanoke platform are Democracy pure and undefiled. A national candidate standing on those principles would deserve the highest honor his country could bestow.

Senator Martin remarked a few minutes after the convention adjourned, that it was clear to him the party was about to enter the campaign with spirit and hope. Every true Democrat prays that the Democratic convention at Denver may deliberate with the courage of and declare with conviction the principles enunciated by the Virginia Democracy at Roanoke.

THE REBATE PROSECUTIONS.

"As to railroad rebates, no greater evil was ever fastened on our business life. They have done more to corrupt industry and paralyze business ambition than anything else. Their complete elimination is a guarantee of a revival in business all over the country, which will, in the end, prove of great benefit to the railroads."

The foregoing words of a most competent authority—Mr. Thomas F. Ryan—go to the root of the transportation problem. They also point out its solution.

The freight rates on American railroads are the lowest in the world. The law requires that they be charged according to the service rendered; ships in the same conditions to have similar rates, made known by publication. The disregard of these laws by railway officials and shippers, seeking unfair advantages over their competitors, have all the evil consequences so tersely stated by Mr. Ryan.

The government, therefore, in prosecuting the violators of these statutes, is accomplishing a service of far greater value than belongs to the usual criminal proceeding. In the most effectual way it is at once removing the principal cause of complaint against the roads and driving out of our business life those who have done most to make success in that life impossible for the honest man.

No section of the country has been exempt from the harmful effects of these fraudulent practices. That since their recently made criminal character and the outburst of resentment they have caused they were still reported to here came as a shock to this community.

The individual suffering entailed by the prosecution of the offenders may be a source of regret to some. Yet this is far outweighed by the benefits to the business interests of the city that should flow from an impartial and open performance of railroad duties.

BREWERS VS. PROHIBITIONISTS.

In Milwaukee the brewing interests of America have gathered together to discuss the protection of their business and to create, as far as possible, a sentiment that will offset the efforts

of the Anti-Saloon League. Leading English brewers will attend and discuss the prohibition problem from an English standpoint. Among the well-known Americans who will speak are Arthur Brisbane, of New York, and Jeremiah W. Jenks. This meeting is more interesting since it comes just after the address issued by the Model License League, of Louisville, prophesying the most dire results if the force of the prohibition wave is not checked. Not only does the league "fear the reign of the fanatic and demagogue in the place of wise leaders and statesmen, but it sees the destruction of \$3,000,000,000 worth of property invested in the liquor business and collateral trades, and more than a million men and women thrown out of employment."

On the other hand, the Minnesota State Prohibition Convention, not to be outdone, has sent to the brewers of Milwaukee an address, which says:

"Your business is doomed, as your outposts are now carried and the prohibition army is about to move against your main body. The church and society have now declared, and the State will soon say, 'The saloons must go.'"

No hint of compensation for property taken, on the one hand, as no suggestion of anything but war to the knife, if pushed to extremes, on the other.

In England, where the liquor traffic is being discussed with great earnestness both by those who are for and those who are opposed to the use of alcohol, a very different spirit prevails, for in Great Britain the property rights of the brewers and barkeepers are considered, and the government has committed itself to the principle of compensation for the destruction of property incident to total prohibition. In view of the large property interests involved in America, it is not too much to say that after destruction of the liquor interest without recourse will not be the ultimate attitude of even prohibition communities.

THOSE ENTHUSIASTIC NEWSBOYS.

Surely the correspondent whose letter we print in this issue is mistaken in saying that the cries of colored newsboys selling The Times-Dispatch assail his slumbers as early as 6 o'clock on Sunday mornings. Colored boys of tender years are not always brilliantly acute, it is true, but neither are they, as a rule, hopeless idiots. Experience would soon teach them that crying their wares at 6 o'clock ante-meridian was a mere useless wear and tear on vocal chords. Everybody is in bed at that hour, except a few policemen and newspaper men, and nobody could be lured out for love or money.

Those newsboys selling the Sunday Times-Dispatch begin work promptly is not denied. How can they help it? They are handling the most popular commodity in the State of Virginia. Everybody wants it. In this community, as in others, there are careless persons who neglect to order their favorite newspaper delivered regularly to them, and these depend on the roving boys to get it. If the boys slipped by their doors, wearing gun shoes and mule as oysters, the day would be ruined for these. Thus, for the moment, the boys have in their keeping the happiness of a great city. Their shouts are notes of joy, clarion harbingers of gladness. When they yell, they are performing a great civic duty.

These boys are not, as our correspondent seems to suppose, in the employ of The Times-Dispatch. They are as independent of this establishment as are any other Richmond merchants. But if their enthusiasm has been leading them into too noisy a demonstration, we trust sincerely that some means may be found to abate it.

ENGLISH CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

Criminal statistics of England and Wales for the year 1906 have recently appeared, and from the data thus given a number of interesting and suggestive comparisons can be made. The commissioners who prepared the report have taken occasion to compare conditions in England to-day with those of 1857, when, for the first time, complete statistics of crime and offenses were kept.

The number of persons tried for indictable offenses in 1906 was 59,073, which comes very near the number tried in 1857, which was 54,667; but the disparity is very much larger when population is considered, since England fifty years ago had 19,250,000, while to-day she has 34,500,000 inhabitants. Thefts have diminished about 40 per cent, and highway robbery is in a fair way to being extinguished, seeing that there were 625 offenses of this sort in 1857, while only 295 were committed in 1906. Housebreaking, however, has increased almost as fast as highway robbery has fallen off, while prosecutions for riot, which were very common fifty years ago, when 138 cases were tried, have decreased to only 26.

There was a great increase of arrests for undetectable offenses, which have grown from 215,757 in 1857 to 618,714 in 1906. Many of these were due to the breaches of police regulations, and indicate no increase of criminal intent on the part of the people; but the arrests for drunkenness have increased out of all proportion to the growth in population, 75,853 persons being arrested in 1857 as against 211,493 in 1906, an increase of threefold, while the population has less than doubled.

In commenting on these statistics, the New York Evening Post points out that falling off of crimes against property are largely due to the development of educational and preventive work, while offenses due to intemperance would evidently never be corrected by ordinary criminal laws. It is to this reason that may be ascribed the growth of preventive and restrictive legislation

in regard to the liquor traffic in England.

WILLIAM ALLEN WHITE.

The Times-Dispatch has much pleasure in the engagement of William Allen White to report the Republican National Convention for this paper. Probably there is no man in America better qualified in every way for this great piece of reporting. Mr. White's thorough knowledge of matters political is only the groundwork for his peculiar fitness. On top of this he has the rarer gifts of an engaging style, rare humor and a singularly acute skill in the dissection of humor. We feel safe in assuring our readers that time given to the perusal of Mr. White's daily telegraphic letters will be well spent. No better pen pictures of the history-making events at Chicago will be found anywhere.

COMMONPLACE CHRISTIANITY.

(Selected for The Times-Dispatch.)
 "Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee."—St. Mark, vi, 13.

Christianity has much to do with the little things as with the great matters of life. A true Christian never forgets his faith; he is as much a Christian at home as in church, and he does not lay aside his religion like a Sunday suit of clothes. Sometimes the saddest sight is that of a man in church, a sadder sight even than that of one in evil company; the man has come to church for years, the message of the Gospel, the warnings and blessings of God have been uttered over and over again in his presence, without producing the slightest effect. Yet such a one is quite satisfied with himself, and would be much surprised to learn that he is not a religious man. If we would judge of a man's true character we must see him at home. There he is himself; at other times he is often acting a part. If we would be sure that our religion is true and genuine, we must test it in the little common duties and trials of daily existence, rather than on occasions and under circumstances of great importance. There are those who declare that if they had lived when the Lord Jesus was on earth, they would have forsaken all and followed Him. Why do they not do so now? Why do they not forsake all that keeps them back from Jesus—all that is unworthy of the name and calling of a Christian?

Claude, the great painter of nature, was often seen carrying home moss and leaves and flowers, and studying them carefully. When he was asked how he made his pictures so true to nature, he answered that he took the greatest pains, even with the smallest trifles. So should it be with our religion. We should show ourselves Christ's people in the most common and trifling matter. We can do this by little acts of kindness.

Never sigh because you can do no great thing, or give no great thing, for Jesus. Do what you can, give what you value most, and it will not seem small in the eyes of the Lord. No gentle word spoken to turn away another's wrath, no injury freely and fully forgiven, no kindly word of encouragement and cheer to the lonely or afflicted, is ever forgotten by God. Cheerfulness is one outward and visible sign of the inward and spiritual grace of true religion.

If we want to lead others to God, we must show that we ourselves are happy. Are we truly happy? Are we thoughtful for others? Christ's religion does not turn people into stone, and freeze every smile, and check every innocent pleasure. All that is bright and happy in this world comes from God; the sunshine, the flowers, the song of birds. So all that is best and happiest in our lives comes from loving and trusting and worshipping our God.

Brethren, be religious in the small things of life, and the great things will take care of themselves; strive to be God's hero of patience, of self-denial, of courage, of meekness at home, and "still do all for Jesus' sake."

Speaking of Taft, William Allen White says that the Republican convention will be "a ratification meeting." As a matter of fact, it will be a ratification meeting, and Mr. White ought to be careful about dropping his g's that way.

"A Baltimore lad with only half a brain has just died," says the Washington Herald. He must have been a very full lad, there is no city in the world so easy to live in with half a brain as old Baltimore.

Robbers recently made a haul of \$25,000 from a train in Texas. First and last a good deal of money passes across that State on its way to Royal Richmond.

Our private corps of critics has recently prepared proof that the real significance of the famous little verse about "Go ask father," is that father was then living in Texas.

It becomes more and more evident that as far as 1908 goes, Henry Cabot Lodge is not one of the flowers that bloom in the spring.

Senator Knox is quoted as saying that he will have "first place or nothing." What use have you got for nothing, Senator?

The Veddas of Ceylon, according to a glowing item, have scruples against bathing. Know any Veddas?

For the brewers to hold their convention in Milwaukee is as good as New York. The place for brewers to meet is Atlanta, Ga.

A great deal of money will be made in New York this week through people's refraining from betting on sure things at the track.

"Governor Johnson can always carry Minnesota," says a contemporary. However, there doesn't seem to be any special place to carry it to this year.

Anyway, Mr. Taft now knows definitely who will be on the other stump.

Rhymes for To-Day

THE HAPPY MAN WE MET IN THE ROAD

We asked him: "What think you of Taft?"
 The fellow said they make him budget his budget.
 He merely shook his head and laughed: "Fudge."

We said: "What of this third-term can Teddy R. avoid the rush?"
 He said, with rather tired gloom, "Slush."

Then we resumed: "There's Frank Men say he's acting like a shah."
 He said, when we had walked a block: "Bah!"

We pressed him further: "Gray was hoaxed."
 But Bryan's made a great big hit! He looked quite blue and warmly consoled: "Quit!"

"What hol' said me, near petrified. 'Don't you like talking politics?' He stared at us full long and cried: 'Nix!'"

He walked away—his laugh rang clear. Again, I turned and said to paw: "There goes the happiest man I ever saw!"

MERELY JOKING.

The Way to Get Results.
 "Remember, a book play needs booming." "I'm getting some of the best citizens to say good word for our production." "Bah! You'll never make a press agent, you want to do is to set 'em to doance it."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Couldn't Complete.
 "Upton, whose office is on the twenty-first floor, but this issue was set on the twenty-first floor, and the elevators don't mean to say you walked all the way up here and the elevators running?" "Uncle Hube! We'll, thirty years ago I could a run, too, but I ain't a-racing with no elevators these days!"—Puck.

Not in His Line.
 "Why did you send that patient to another doctor?" "Well, explained the physician with a strictly fashionable practice, 'he appeared to be really sick.'"—Washington Herald.

Elaborate Duplicity.
 "He talks poor." "Then he must be rich." "Then he must be poor." "Some men are deep enough to plead poverty just for the impression it will create."—Washington Herald.

Gold Ones.
 "They are printing President Madison's love letters." "I'll bet they are not the kind a man would pay \$7,000 for in order to get them back."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

A Ruse.
 "Gentleman (to cigar dealer): 'Have you any Goodwood in stock?' 'How are they?' Dealer: 'First-class, sir. This last lot is an extremely fine one, not at all like the Goodwood (departing): 'Thanks; you wrote that they were very poor, but I am glad to see you have a better one. I am the manufacturer. Good day.'—Philadelphia Inquirer.

In Doubt.
 "Is the pen really mightier than the sword?" "Of dunno as it is," answered the counter clerk. "When I was in the army, I earned \$12 a month."—Houston Chronicle.

POINTED REMARKS.

A GOTHAM man has patented a cheat for the protection of his pocket. He will cure baldness. Now, if some one will come forward with a hat that will prevent baldness, he will be a very happy man. Atlanta Georgian.

Miss Bible, accused of stealing diamonds in Chicago, has confessed. Winding up her ante-luncheon career with a few relations, as it were.—Washington Herald.

A Houston woman has announced that she will not marry the best man living. So long as she remains single, she will not likely to meet him.—Washington Post.

Senator Foraker is the original race suitor.—New York Mail.

"Barn and two horses perish," says a headline in a Nashville paper. Hereafter, we suppose, Nashville will have the foreboding extension of its territory, especially during the perishing season.—Washington Herald.

By nominating a mining expert like John Hayes Hammond for Vice-President, the Republicans would have a man who could ascertain if the mine was a mine. How deep Taft would have been buried in the November landslide.—Houston Post.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

The sperm whale can stay under water for twenty minutes.
 Influenza, like cholera, always travels from East to West.
 A mole eats as many as 20,000 earthworms in the course of a year.
 A madman, a vagabond, of Berlin, has succeeded in finding a serum which cures poisonous poisoning.

In Saxony practically all of the live stock still fed on straw this year, and the largest portion the full 25 days.
 Germany's population is increasing much more rapidly than that of Britain or France, and the result is a serious shortage of food.
 Joe Brown, who has just defeated Hold Smith in the Georgia gubernatorial primary, weighs but ninety-five pounds, while Smith weighed 220.
 Students who have graduated in Germany are being engaged for the Hanayong (China) iron works and arsenal to improve the quality of the arms being turned out there.
 With his serum therapy Prof. Chante-messe, of Paris, claims that he has in 1,000 cases of typhoid fever reduced the usual mortality of 17 per cent. to only 4.7 per cent.
 At the meeting of the Plomessat Board of Guardians the clerk reported the death of George Smith, who, he stated, had been a member of the workhouse for more than seventy years.—London Standard.

Voice of the People

Selling The Times-Dispatch.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch: I, 1908.
 Sir, Recently there have appeared in The Times-Dispatch both editorials and letters from subscribers on the suppression of unnecessary noises. The Times-Dispatch has it within its power to entirely abate one that has grown to be an outrage—viz., the unearthly yells uttered by colored newsboys on Sunday mornings. These boys begin at 6 o'clock, and continue to howl until 8 o'clock, there is no such thing as sleep. No reader not supplied by carrier wishes to be awakened at such an hour to purchase the paper.

In the neighborhood of the hospitals at Twelfth and Broad Streets, where the newsboys most do congregate, the noise is well-nigh unbearable both by the inmates of those institutions and the dwellers in the residences.

Will you not abate this most useless of unnecessary noises?

CONVENTION ECHOES

Virginia Press Comments on the Roanoke Convention.

Bryan and the Primary.
 In view of the inactivity of Mr. Bryan's nomination at Denver, we are inclined to think that the action of the Roanoke convention in instructing its delegates to vote for him was good policy from a mere party point of view. It is a matter of principle we do not favor the practice of fettering delegates to a national convention with instructions.

By referring the primary question to the State Central Committee with instructions to investigate and report to the State convention, the Roanoke convention confessed its inability to deal with the subject. This was reasonably to be expected, and thus action was rational and business-like, though the effect is to perpetuate the present system unmodified four years longer, and in a large measure to prevent the convention from being a real party convention. There is small chance for an intricate and difficult question, such as a primary plan, to be decided not only at a national convention which it deserves. Petersburg Independent-Appal.

A Great Platform.

Yes, it's a good platform—the Roanoke declaration—a platform that should commend the Roanoke platform to the people. It deals, as we had hope it would deal, with essentials, and has ignored all but the essentials of the platform. The delegates in a large measure have shown a common sense in their action. The Roanoke platform is a platform that should commend the Roanoke platform to the people. It deals, as we had hope it would deal, with essentials, and has ignored all but the essentials of the platform. The delegates in a large measure have shown a common sense in their action. The Roanoke platform is a platform that should commend the Roanoke platform to the people. It deals, as we had hope it would deal, with essentials, and has ignored all but the essentials of the platform. The delegates in a large measure have shown a common sense in their action. The Roanoke platform is a platform that should commend the Roanoke platform to the people. 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